

What does 'Sustainability' mean for stock ?


St Joseph's P. S. Senior Class interviewed adults to find out how they would define "farm sustainably with stock" as part of their 'Sustainability and our Farmland Environment*' unit . Collating the common ideas, we found that

'Yes we can' farm sustainably with stock by:

- **running stock to match the land,**
- **using stock containment areas**
- **and rotating them on stubbles and pasture paddocks**

This table lists the replies, with common ideas highlighted:

1	low stock rates to lower the risk of soil erosion
2	We try to keep a balance of running enough stock to make money but not too many that we bare the soil causing erosion.
3	Sheep are used as an income from lambs and wool
4	Do not over graze,
5	Stock containment areas to stop sheep causing erosion
6	We have a stock containment area to protect the soil elsewhere from too much compaction from the sheep.
7	We also have containment areas where we lock the stock up and feed them grain and hay, keeping them off the paddocks that may be getting bare. We grow stock (sheep and cattle) in the stubbles and other permanent

8	pasture sown to suit and protect some of the fragile soil.
8	grow stock in conjunction with crop and rotate paddocks (crop one year, and then stock on the paddock the following year to allow the paddock to have a spell)
9	Grow stock (cattle) on less productive ground (pasture paddocks)
10	rotate livestock into different paddocks, remove pest animals
	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p style="text-align: right; font-size: small;">Definitions above from St Joseph's PS Senior Class farmer interviews. 23/4/2012</p>
11	<p>Growing grass to feed the cattle. Using the manure to fertilize the grass.</p> <p style="font-size: x-small; text-align: right;">Definition from Well-fed homestead quoted in http://www.wellfedhomestead.com/teaching-kids-about-sustainable-agriculture</p>

* Sustainability and our Farmland Environment'
is the 2012 Lower Wimmera Environmental Education Project (a Wimmera HUB DEECD Strategic Partnership Project)
for St Joseph's PS Senior Class and Staff.

This 2012 project contributes to the Australian Year of the Farmer, the National Year of Reading and the United Nations Decade of Biodiversity.



Jeanie Clark, SPP environmental educator.



How to reference this page for the Science Talent Search competition –

Copy this first part

“What does sustainability mean for stock?”, St Josephs PS Senior class, 13 June 2012, sourced as sts_stock.pfd at <http://www3.sjhopenoun.catholic.edu.au/sts-resources-2012.html>

and then add the date and time that you looked at this webpage.